



National Nanotechnology  
Infrastructure Network

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Dear Colleague:

I wish to bring to your attention the **Research Experience for Undergraduates Program** of the **National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network (the NNIN REU)**. Students are easily excited about nanotechnology and its research activities cut across most of the major scientific disciplines. I encourage you to bring this summer research opportunity to the attention of your best students.

The NNIN program is a large and highly successful summer program conducted across the fourteen participating sites of NNIN, some of the leading nanotechnology university laboratories in the United States. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year of our REU program, and over those years, we have had over 900 participants. We consistently receive high marks from the student interns for providing a quality research experience. Similarly, our faculty consistently rate the performance of the students very highly. Participants undertake a challenging nanotechnology project, working with NNIN faculty and staff, and using the advanced equipment and process resources of NNIN. Our program provides a high level of support from faculty, mentors, and staff to assure that the students have a successful experience.

There are several unique aspects to our program. Students apply once, on-line, to be considered for participation across NNIN, for approximately 80 positions at 14 major universities. At the end of our program, all the NNIN REU participants from all the sites gather at one site for a three-day research convocation where they present their results to their peers. This exposes the students to the breadth of nanotechnology applications researched by their peers and is a formative professional networking experience. Finally, all students write a research report, which is published as the **NNIN REU Research Accomplishments**.

Our program is highly competitive. We expect to receive over 800 applications for the approximately 80 available positions for the summer 2012. The program is most suitable for students who have completed their sophomore or junior years in science or engineering and who are interested in a science or engineering career. We especially encourage applications from women and minorities, students from smaller non-research institutions, and students with limited research experience.

**We encourage you to make this opportunity available to your best students.** REU programs such as ours are critical to students wishing to go to graduate school; we think that our program offers a superior research experience and unparalleled opportunities. Opportunities are available across the range of nanotechnology disciplines — chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering.

The enclosed poster contains more details and I refer you to the NNIN REU web site at [http://www.nnin.org/nnin\\_reu.html](http://www.nnin.org/nnin_reu.html) for additional information and the on-line application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Rathbun", is written over a light-colored background.

NNIN Deputy Director